



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jeffrey D. Anderson et al.

Serial No.: 09/871,127

Filed: May 31, 2001

For: INTERNALLY THREADED
FASTENER AND STEMMED
WASHER ASSEMBLY AND
METHOD FOR MAKING SAME

§ Group Art Unit: 3679

§ Examiner: Miller, William L.

§ Atty. Docket: ITWO:0006/YOD/SWA/
(12990)

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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March 8, 2005

Date


Tait R. Swanson

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In the Notice of Allowability attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed on February 1, 2005, the Examiner provided a Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Although Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's Allowance of the present claims, Applicants do not entirely agree with the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance.

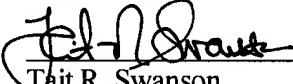
The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance compares the prior art with the allowed independent claims in a manner that ignores certain claim recitations. For example, regarding independent claims 1 and 13, the Examiner stated that Bydalek discloses "all of the limitations except for the standoff portion having an exterior surface that is substantially perpendicular to the washer portion." Notice of Allowability mailed February 1, 2005, page 2. Similarly, regarding independent claim 7, the Examiner stated that Bydalek discloses "all of the limitations except for the standoff portion having a substantially cylindrical structure extending from the washer portion to an end." *Id.*, page 3. Finally, regarding independent claims 26 and 27, the Examiner stated that Bydalek discloses "all of the limitations except for the standoff portion comprising a substantially right cylindrical extending from the washer portion to an end opposite the washer portion." *Id.*, page 3.

In contrast to the Examiner's statements, the Applicants stress that the cited references also fail to teach or suggest other features recited in the allowed claims. For example, as discussed in previous responses, the Applicants reiterate that Bydalek discloses a *compression or pressure* ring 16 (i.e., a lug nut for an automobile wheel) rather than a standoff, the disclosed pressure ring 16 *creates* rather than limits compressive loading, and the disclosed pressure ring 16 does not abut an additional fastener at an outer end of the ring 16. *See* Bydalek, Figure 2; col. 2, lines 48-61. Accordingly, the Applicants reiterate that Bydalek is deficient to the extent these features, among others, are recited in the allowed claims. In other words, the allowability of these claims may be based on one or more different claim features, inclusive or exclusive of those recited in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully stress that each of the allowed claims is patentable based on one or more different and/or similar features explicitly recited in each respective claim.

Respectfully submitted,

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